

Amendment(s) to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An engine cover puller apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a base to contact at least a first portion of an engine cover;

a lever arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said lever arm pivotably connected to said base; and

a puller arm adapted to engage an underside of said engine cover and to apply a pulling force thereto, said puller arm pivotably connected to said lever arm between said first end and said second end of said lever arm[.];

wherein sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm while said puller arm engages said engine cover applies a pulling force that separates said engine cover from a sealing surface on said engine.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base is shaped to provide a complementary fit to said at least a first portion of said engine cover.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said puller arm engages a second portion of said engine cover.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, additionally comprising at least one channel on said puller arm,

wherein said at least one channel provides a complementary fit to engage at least a second portion of said engine cover.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said apparatus is a second class lever providing a separating force upon said sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm;

wherein said base contacts said at least a first portion of said engine cover;

and

wherein said at least one channel engages said at least a second portion of said engine cover.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A device for separating a part of an engine from a sealing surface with the remainder of said engine, said device comprising:

a base to contact at least a first portion of said part of an engine;

a lever arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said lever arm pivotably connected to said base; and

a puller arm adapted to engage an underside of said part of an engine and to apply a pulling force thereto, said puller arm pivotably connected to said lever arm between said first and said second ends of said lever arm[.];

wherein sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm while said puller arm engages said part of an engine applies a pulling force that separates said part of an engine from said sealing surface with said remainder of said engine.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 6, wherein said base is shaped to provide a complementary fit to said at least a first portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 6,

wherein a stabilizing force is generated during said sufficient movement of said lever arm; and

wherein said base distributes said stabilizing force upon said at least a first portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 6, wherein said puller arm engages a second portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The device of claim 6,

~~wherein a separating force is generated during said sufficient movement of said lever arm; and~~

wherein said puller arm distributes said separating pulling force upon at least a second portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 6, additionally comprising at least one channel on said puller arm,

wherein said at least one channel provides a complementary fit to engage at least a second portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a second class lever providing a separating force upon said sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm;

wherein said base contacts said at least a first portion of said part of an engine; and

wherein said at least one channel engages said at least a second portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 6 wherein said part of an engine is selected from the group consisting of a valve cover, an engine cover, a case cover, a dust cover, and an engine pan.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 6 wherein said remainder of said engine is selected from the group consisting of an engine block, a portion of an engine block, and a cylinder.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A device for separating a part of an engine from a sealing surface with the remainder of said engine, said device comprising;

a base to contact at least a first portion of said part of an engine at an upper surface;

a lever arm pivotably mounted to said base to pivot about a first axis; and

a puller arm adapted to engage a second portion of said part of an engine at a lower surface along an underside thereof and to apply a pulling force thereto, said puller arm pivotably mounted to said lever arm for pivoting about a second axis spaced from said first axis,

whereby pivoting of said lever arm about said first axis lifts said puller arm upward with respect to said lower surface of said second portion of said part of an engine to separate and applies a pulling force thereto, thereby separating said part of an engine from said sealing surface with the remainder of said engine.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 15, wherein said base is shaped to provide a complementary fit to said at least a first portion of said part of an engine.

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 15, additionally comprising at least one channel on said puller arm,

wherein said at least one channel provides a complementary fit to engage
said part of an engine at a lower surface of a second portion.

Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 15, wherein said part of an engine is selected from the group consisting of a valve cover, an engine cover, a case cover, a dust cover, and an engine pan.

Claim 19 (original): A method for separating an engine cover from a sealing surface with the remainder of an engine, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a base to contact at least a first portion of said engine cover;
positioning a puller arm to engage at least a second portion of said engine cover;
moving a lever arm pivotably attached to said base and to said puller arm;
and
generating a separating force by said movement of said lever arm sufficient to remove said engine cover from at least a portion of said sealing surface on said remainder of an engine,
wherein said lever arm pivots about a first axis relative to said base;
wherein said puller arm pivots about a second axis relative to said lever arm; and
wherein said first axis is spaced from said second axis.

Claim 20 (new): An engine cover puller apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a base to contact at least a first portion of an engine cover;
a lever arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said lever arm pivotably connected to said base;

a puller arm adapted to engage said engine cover, said puller arm pivotably connected to said lever arm between said first end and said second end of said lever arm; and

at least one channel on said puller arm, said at least one channel providing a complementary fit to engage at least a second portion of said engine cover;

wherein sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm while said puller arm engages said engine cover separates said engine cover from a sealing surface on said engine.

Claim 21 (new): A device for separating a part of an engine from a sealing surface with the remainder of said engine, said device comprising:

a base to contact at least a first portion of said part of an engine;

a lever arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said lever arm pivotably connected to said base;

a puller arm adapted to engage said part of an engine, said puller arm pivotably connected to said lever arm between said first and said second ends of said lever arm; and

at least one channel on said puller arm, said at least one channel providing a complementary fit to engage at least a second portion of said part of an engine;

wherein sufficient movement of said second end of said lever arm while said puller arm engages said part of an engine separates said part of an engine from said sealing surface with said remainder of said engine.